

Kirjavainen. Claims 16 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirjavainen.

Independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, and 27, claim a swelled dielectric cellular film. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion in the Office Action, (paragraph 7, lines 4-6), Kirjavainen does not disclose a swelled dielectric cellular electret film in column 1, lines 33-36. All that is disclosed is a film layer foamed to be of full-cell type, which is not the same as a swelled film. The difference is discussed in the specification, on page 5, lines 8-17. Therein, it is explained that the film is foamed to be of full-cell type, but that it can also be pressure inflated from a prefoamed plastic film.

Furthermore, a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132, signed by one of the inventors of the above-captioned application, also indicates the difference between a full-cell type film and a swelled cellular film. Also enclosed with that Declaration is a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,955,014 to Raukola et al., on which the declarant of the Declaration enclosed herein was named as one of the inventors, which indicates the procedure for manufacturing a strongly foamed film product or swelled film disclosed in the specification, on page 5, lines 12-17. The Declaration elucidates the difference between the film disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,654,546, and the film disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,955,014, which is also described in the above-captioned application. Finally, the Declaration indicates the unobviousness of charging the film disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,654,546 with a high intensity electric field, such as disclosed in the above-captioned application, due to a lack of mechanical strength when compared to the film disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,955,014.

New claims 34-66 added herein claim a dielectric film uncoated with an electrically conductive layer. This feature distinguishes these claims from Kirjavainen which teaches away

from this concept, only disclosing dielectric films coated at least in part on at least one side with an electrically conductive layer.

Regarding the Examiner's statement that Applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application filed in Finland on August 12, 1994, Application No. 943721, as required by 35 U.S.C. §119(b), such a certified copy is not necessary since a PCT application intervened between the parent U.S. Application of this application and the Finland application. The Applicant inadvertently omitted the PCT Application on the Declaration filed herein. A corrected Declaration will be filed shortly.

Claims 18-26, withdrawn from consideration herein, as being non-elected claims, have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer in order to reduce additional claim fees due for added claims herein. However, Applicant expressly reserves the right to file continuing application(s) containing claims 18-26.

Please charge Deposit Account 50-1290 the sum of \$543.00 for twenty-three (23) net claims added by this amendment, and eight (8) independent claims added by this amendment, this application being a small entity application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

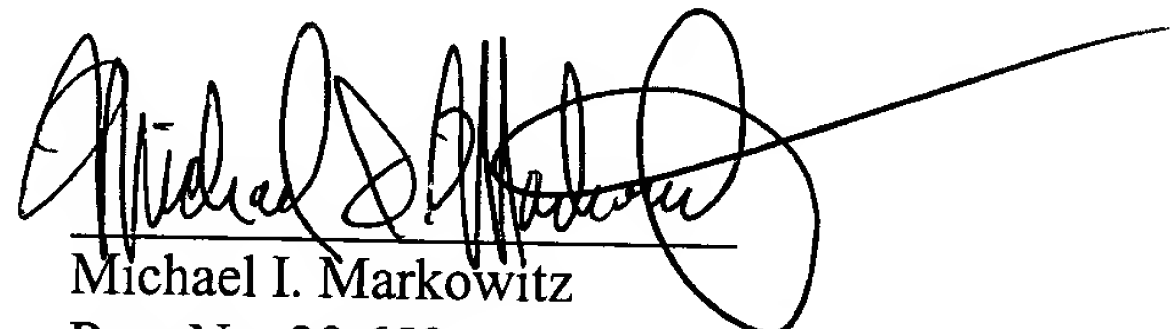
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Version With Markings to Show Changes Made
Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 13-14, 16, and 27, have been rewritten as follows:

1. (Once Amended) [Dielectric] Swelled dielectric cellular electret film, said cellular film containing flat gas bubbles, wherein the film contains partial discharges inside the film produced in the gas bubbles to achieve improved electrical properties.

2. (Once Amended) [Dielectric] Swelled dielectric cellular electret film according to claim 1, wherein the film has partial discharges produced in the gas bubbles and the charges are caused to move into the dielectric material of the film as a result of [that] the film [is] being provided with a large internal unipolar charge created by charging the film by means of an electric DC field intensive enough to produce partial discharges in the gas bubbles and to cause the charges to move into the dielectric material of the film.

4. (Once Amended) [Dielectric] Swelled dielectric cellular electret film according to claim 1, wherein the film has at least one film layer foamed to be of full-cell type, and wherein the film has been oriented by stretching it in two directions.

5. (Once Amended) Dielectric cellular electret film, said cellular film containing flat gas bubbles, wherein the film is a swelled dielectric cellular electret film; wherein the film has at least one film layer foamed to be of full-cell type, wherein the film has been oriented by [strecthing] stretching it in two directions, and wherein the film contains partial discharges inside the film produced in the gas bubbles to achieve improved electrical properties.

6. (Once Amended) Transducer element having one or several swelled dielectric cellular electret films, said cellular films containing flat gas bubbles, wherein the film contains partial discharges inside the film produced in the gas bubbles to achieve improved electrical properties.
8. (Once Amended) Transducer element according to claim 6 [consisting of] comprising at least one cellular electret film, at least one signal electrode and at least two ground electrodes, wherein
- the transducer element is a electret film, containing a permanent electric charge,
- the film being a cell-type electret film, and
- the transducer part has a laminated structure, where at least the signal electrode is [a film-like layer being] disposed on the surface of the electret film or another dielectric film.
11. (Once Amended) Self-adhesive film self-adhesive by virtue of an electrostatic force [consisting of] comprising a swelled dielectric cellular electret film, said cellular films containing flat gas bubbles, wherein the film contains partial discharges inside the film produced in the gas bubbles to achieve improved adhesive properties.
13. (Once Amended) [Film] Swelled film of dielectric material, self-adhesive by virtue of an electrostatic force, which film contains gas bubbles preferably of a flat shape, [characterized in that,] wherein, to achieve an adhesive quality of the film, the film is given a large internal unipolar charge, which is created by charging the film by means of an electric field intensive enough to produce partial discharges in the gas bubbles and to cause the charges to move into the dielectric material of the film.

14. (Once Amended) Film as defined in claim 13, wherein the film is coated with a slightly [adhesive, sticker-like] adhesive layer.

16. (Once Amended) Film as defined in claim 13, wherein, to increase the net charge created inside the film, the film is doped with charge binding [additives, such as ferrochloride.] additives.

27. (Once Amended) A self-adhesive swelled cell type dielectric film, self-adhesive by virtue of an electrostatic force, said swelled cell type film [at least being capable of setting straight onto a surface,] lying flat on a flat surface without manipulation, said swelled cell type film containing flat gas blisters, and said film containing partial discharges inside the film produced in the gas blisters to achieve an adhesive quality of the film.